

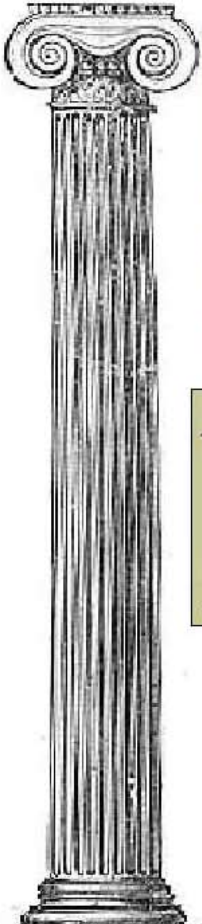
DELTA DISTRICT 16

# ΣΚΕΠΣΟΥ

NEWSLETTER

SPRING

2008



## From the Editors

Dear District 16 AHEPA Family:

We hope you enjoy this latest issue of our District's newsletter. As you read through the articles you will discover that all the AHEPA and DOP chapters have been very active during the past few months fulfilling the Missions of our Order, and it is with this thought the layout was designed for the cover of this Spring issue.

At the top of the layout are silhouettes of olive trees, representing the generous response by District 16 to aid the Greek fire victims, and at the bottom is the architectural rendering of "Penelope's Place", epitomizing the various HUD housing projects that have been, and continue to be built within our District. These are just two of many ways we benefit humanity through our philanthropy.

The photos, from top to bottom, depict our family, cultural, scholastic and civic involvement:

*Top:* AHEPA VP John Papas with Tom Pearson of Chapter 29 present an achievement award to Eagle Scout Elias Tarsinos for his work on the HUD apartment gazebo.

*Middle-left:* Symbol of the thousands of dollars in scholarship monies awarded to college students by our Chapters, Districts and National.

*Middle-right:* Keynote speaker Gov. Michael Dukakis at the opening of the exhibit "The Hidden Children of Occupied Greece" sponsored by the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest with PDG Ernest Papavasiliou and wife Katia.

*Bottom:* Supreme Pres. Ike Gulas and Grand Pres. Karen Stamatiades with former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Cyprus, Erato Kozakkou-Marcoullis, during the "Salute to Women".

These are just a few examples to be found within the articles of this issue demonstrating the significant benefits our AHEPA family makes.

With best regards,  
Barbara and Cathy

## District Officers

### Ahepa

<b>Governor</b>	John Sempeles <a href="mailto:john.n.sempeles@lmco.com">john.n.sempeles@lmco.com</a> 817-271-1853
<b>Lt. Governor</b>	Costa Sgagias <a href="mailto:csgagias@Satx.rr.com">csgagias@Satx.rr.com</a> 210-659-2677
<b>Secretary</b>	Nick Kaffes <a href="mailto:nickkaffes@aol.com">nickkaffes@aol.com</a> 832-859-2786
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### DOP

<b>Governor</b>	Barbara Maligas <a href="mailto:maligas@sbcglobal.net">maligas@sbcglobal.net</a> 281-974-9629
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<b>Secretary</b>	Sharon Papadopoulos <a href="mailto:sharonpapa14@sbcglobal.net">sharonpapa14@sbcglobal.net</a> 713-728-8322
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kay Sgagias <a href="mailto:csgagias@satx.rr.com">csgagias@satx.rr.com</a> 210-659-2677
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**District Website:** [www.ahepad16.org](http://www.ahepad16.org)

## From The District Governors of Delta District 16



**Barbara Maligas**



**John Sempeles**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of District 16:

As the 2007-2008 year and my term as your District Governor comes to a close, it is with my sincere appreciation that I thank all the Chapters for their enthusiasm and hard work, my Sisters on the District Lodge for their support and a job well done, the AHEPA District Lodge for their assistance and teamwork, our District Liaison and Grand Governor Zone III for her encouragement, and, on a personal note, the many other Sisters who have given me the benefit of their knowledge and counsel. Thanks to you all, it has been a very successful year.

The achievements have been many and have encompassed the lofty Missions of our Order:

~ There was an exceptionally generous response by the District to provide assistance to the needs of the Greek people after suffering the devastating fires in the fall...boxes of clothing were collected, monetary donations were made, and olive trees to replant the lost groves were purchased.

~ You have given of your time, talent, and resources to serve and benefit various endeavors within your communities...visitations at nursing homes, providing school students with supplies, giving gifts and donations to various charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army, making contributions to our Church homes, in addition to the National philanthropic projects such as Penelope House, Cooley's Anemia and the Sylvester Cancer Center

~ Many of your Chapters have held fund raising projects for the purpose of awarding scholarships on a local level, and continue to contribute to the District level program through the purchase of raffle tickets, for over a score of college students, thus helping to provide a future for our youth.

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Yasou Delta District Family,

I am writing this issue to update you on the status of our District 16. Since my last installment in the Fall Skepsou, the District has completed its Fire Relief fundraiser, has had a membership drive in the Fall, a visit from the Supreme President in January, and a 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary for one of our Chapters. As we enter the Spring Season, we are rapidly approaching the Summer Convention in the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex, where we will propose new appropriations for the Skepsou, a new District and national program, and for the first time ever, District by-laws. I think everyone will be very excited with the direction in which the District is heading.

First I would like to start off by again thanking the Chairmen of the District 16 Fire Relief Fund. As a final tally, we raised \$18,500 and became the second highest contributing District in the country. It is a testament to the hard work of both Anthony Kouzounis and Pete Kaldis that we were able to do so much for our Brethren in Southern Greece. Bravo, Brothers!

I would also like to thank the Chapters for all their hard work this past year. Due to tremendous Chapter participation in the Fall membership drive, our AHEPA District membership grew by 14% in 2007. We are currently at 603 standing members. Great work everyone! On an individual Chapter level, The New Orleans Chapter was awarded an AHEPA HUD project in October for 42 housing units. The Houston Daughters Chapter 54 began construction on its phase I HUD project in the Fall. AHEPA Houston Chapter 29 was honored in January by Supreme President Ike Gulas and former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, at its new Hellenic

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(AHEPA DG - cont. from page 1)

Cultural Center. The Center conducted a program recognizing Greece for protecting Jewish children during WWII. In February, The Fort Worth and Clear Lake Chapters both had successful Glendi and Valentine Events, and the San Antonio Chapter celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It has been a very vibrant 5 months.

As part of my Governor duties, I visited the majority of the District 16 Chapters over the Fall and Winter. I visited Houston, West Houston, Clear Lake during a Lodge meeting in September. I visited Shreveport in September and reviewed the results from the 77<sup>th</sup> District Convention that they hosted last summer. The Lt. Governor and I visited Austin in November and heard the results from their 2007 Greek Festival. In December, I visited New Orleans and attended their Christmas dinner, as well as getting an update on their new HUD project. Both the Fort Worth and Dallas were visited periodically over the Fall and Winter months.

In January, the Lodge visited the Dallas Chapter to assess the upcoming Convention plans. The location will be at the Crown Plaza hotel in North Dallas with accommodations for at least 50 rooms. Meeting rooms are set up for District business, and plans are set for a Greek night and Banquet night on Friday and Saturday. Transportation is available for shopping at the local Galleria Mall and trips to the Lone Star Park horse races for non-delegates. Details of registration will be sent in April, as well as an ad in this month's Skepsou. Reservations at the Crown Plaza hotel will need to be made by May 22<sup>nd</sup>, so please make efforts to do that now.

In February, I was able to attend the Clear Lake Glendi, Fort Worth Valentines Dance, and San Antonio 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party. All three raised funds with successful raffles and auctions. Brothers Anthony Kouzounis, Pete Kaldis, and I attended the San Antonio anniversary and we can say without reservation it was a top-notch affair. Brother Kouzounis presented Chapter President Sgagias with an AHEPA certificate of Merit in honor of his Chapter. A good time was had by all.

On the national front this year, the Biannual Banquet took place again in March in Washington DC. Our District was admirably represented by Supreme Treasurer Anthony Kouzounis, Supreme

Governor John Georgiandis, District PDG and Lodge advisor Pete Kaldis, and Houston members Saki Onisiphorou and George Polydoros, Sr. The banquet was well attended on Friday night, but meetings on Thursday with U.S. Congressional members especially gave AHEPANs an opportunity to discuss such topical Hellenic issues as the autonomy of Crete, the rights of the Patriarchate in Turkey, and the immerging controversy of the FYROM (Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia). There are currently many resolutions in the U.S. Congress supporting our Hellenic interests on these issues. The national Lodge continues to pursue these paramount issues with our national government for us.

The Supreme Convention, as you know, will be in Athens Greece this year from July 1 -11<sup>th</sup>. If you have not selected delegates yet, please do so immediately. Even if you did not sign up for the hotel package offered by National, you can still go as a delegate, especially if you have plans to be in Greece at the same time. Our District needs to remain prominent on the national scene, and by representing us at this Convention, you can support our candidates for national office. Anthony Kouzounis will again be running for Supreme Treasurer. Let's give him all the support we can. Go to [www.ahepa2008.com](http://www.ahepa2008.com) for registration and other details.

At this time, I must sadly relay the news that our esteemed brother, John Georgiandis, is stepping down from his position as Supreme Governor of Region 7. Brother Georgiandis felt, since he could not represent our region at the upcoming Athens Convention, it would be better for him to secede his position to someone who could represent at national. I am profoundly saddened that he has had to make this decision, but it is an example of self-sacrifice we have come to expect of our esteemed brother. Brother John will be greatly missed in his office. On a personal level, I must say that Brother John has been both a confidante and beacon to me personally. When I first joined the Lodge, John took me under his wing. He has been giving me sage like advice ever since. The Region will greatly miss him and we thank him for his service to the Order, and to our District.

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(AHEPA DG - cont. from page 2)

John is to be succeeded by Past District Governor Pete Kaldis of Houston. I do not have to tell you, those who know Brother Pete, knows he will do an excellent job and honorably represent our District and Region. Brother Pete has been a permanent fixture at National in recent years and knows all the important issues affecting our District, and the Order as a whole. Good luck and God speed Brother Pete.

Now I would like to end by speaking about the upcoming District Convention in Dallas Fort Worth. The convention is set for Thursday through Sunday, June 19-22<sup>nd</sup>. It is particularly important this year that all Chapters send delegates to this convention. We will be discussing some very pertinent issues that will have consequences throughout the District. Delegates will be asked to ratify District by-laws, something this District has never had before. These by-laws will actually provide us with rules for how to run the District, where in the past we had relied on thinly strung together resolutions from convention to convention. These laws will ensure continuity for the District.

In addition, this year's convention will likely enact a financial award program to help District students who want to participate in the national Journey to Greece Program. The Journey program is a nationally recognized program for sending college students to Greece for a 2 or 4 week period to receive classically based lessons and explore the homeland. District has yet to send a student on this program and that has to

change. We will be enacting some form of support for student's expenses this year.

Also, the Convention will be offering for the first time a Chapter Officers Workshop. This workshop is open and free to all members, but is targeted for new Chapter Officers who need to know what their responsibilities will be and what resources are available to them. The scope will cover National, District, and local level of AHEPA business.

Finally, we will make some tough decisions regarding the future direction of the Skepsou itself. This high quality, informative periodical that you are currently reading is, at this time, insufficiently funded. Without some other sources of income or changes in the format, we will not be able to continue dispersing it the same way. We need complete participation at this convention to adequately move forward as a District on these and other issues. I hope that you will all send adequate delegates to participate.

As for myself, I can honestly say I have had a very fulfilling year as your District Governor. I met many more members and got to know more Chapters than I ever would as an individual member. I hope that I have served adequately and addressed the needs of this District. I think at the end of my term, we will have made some improvements to the conduct of District business and hopefully made it easier for the next officers coming in. I cannot thank you enough for your support and well wishing. Let us remain strong and relevant, and continue to grown in the Order. **Onward and Upward.**

### From the AHEPA Supreme Treasurer *Anthony G. Kouzounis*

Participation in District and National functions establishes strong bonds of Brotherhood and enhances our involvement in our local Chapters. This is a function and duty of our elected leaders in our Chapters and in our Districts. I am humbled and proud to represent my Chapter #19 and my DELTA district 16 throughout the AHEPA domain.



Supreme Treasurer Anthony Kouzounis "sandwiched" by Supreme Governor John Georgiandis - Region 7, and Supreme Governor Phil Giavasis - Region 5.

Our Family, Ahepans and Daughters of Penelope, must work side by side to accomplish all projects whether in our cities, our District or Nationally. Our Family, Ahepans and Daughters of Penelope, must work side by side to accomplish all projects whether in our cities, our District or Nationally.

The JOURNEY TO GREECE program is such a project that we must support. It is in its third year and continues to grow with many college students going to classes in Greece, learning of their heritage and gaining college credits. What a win-win combination.

Let us ALL continue our efforts to keep District 16 in the forefront of AHEPA leadership. Continue to participate and support this and other worthy projects.

See y'all in Dallas and, hopefully, in Athens.

(DOP DG - cont. from page 1)

~ Hellenism has and is being promoted through local cultural displays, working on festivals, and participation in the events of the Southwestern Hellenic Cultural Center.

~ The quality of life for many senior citizens in our neighborhoods is being improved for generations to come thanks to the great effort put forth to succeed in receiving grants from HUD to build comfortable and affordable housing facilities.

~ Civic chairpersons have been appointed within the Chapters to keep members informed on civic matters that are of concern to Hellenes so that initiatives can be made to have our voices heard on Capitol Hill regarding important Government legislation.

In addition to these many accomplishments, the year has been remarkable in other ways:

~ Our Grand Vice-President has headed an aggressive membership campaign that has inspired us to go out into our communities and promote the benefits of Daughter membership. The results have been exceptional: within the District we have had an increase of 13% over the recorded membership for 2006 (from 378 members to a total of 426), or almost 50 new Daughters. Keep spreading the word and sharing the spirit!

~ In January the District sponsored a successful Winter Workshop that created additional awareness of our projects, procedures, and protocols, in addition to giving Daughters from throughout the District a time for fellowship.

~ It is with great pleasure that I am able to report our District now has a Maids of Athena Chapter. The newly reinstated Rhodanthi Chapter is comprised of eight young women from the Houston area who were initiated on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the home of Aura member Mary Demataris. The MOA Grand Treasurer Victoria Pavlopoulos and DOP Grand Advisor Joanne Saltas were in attendance at this exciting event. We are thrilled to have this new Maids Chapter in our midst and welcome the members enthusiastically!

On June 19<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>, the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual District Convention will be held in Dallas, followed shortly thereafter on July 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup>, by the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual AHEPA Supreme Convention in Athens. As always, these Conventions will be a time for review, planning, decision making, elections, and joining together as an AHEPA family.

Both of the Conventions will be particularly momentous for our District, so it is important that they both be well represented by delegates from our Chapters and District.

During the District Convention we will conduct business with our AHEPA Brothers and will have conclusions to make on two important issues:

1) The future of the District Newsletter SKEPSOU: For the past two years, while I have been an editor of this publication, it has been funded by the Ahepans (who continue to be accessed for their share at \$4 per year), by donations from some of the DOP Chapters, and by the selling of promotional space within the issues. Resolutions will be called for on alternatives to the quality of format, number of issues per year, means of disbursement, and funding methods.

2) The Journey to Greece Program: In the Fall 2007 issue of the SKEPSOU, we were given a good overview by PDG Kaldis on the benefits and need for the District to participate in this nationally recognized project. At this convention you will be presented with additional information and options for its financial support for your discussion and action.

On Saturday afternoon DG Sempeles and the Ahepans will be holding a Workshop, primarily for the purpose of giving guidance to the Chapter officers. Consideration is being given to offer a similar opportunity for the DOP Chapter officers at the same time.

The Supreme Convention being held in Athens will be a memorable experience not only because of its location, but also because our esteemed Sister from Nestor Chapter, Grand Vice-President Barbara Stavis Wolf, is the nominee for DOP Grand President for 2008-2009. This is a great honor for her, Nestor Chapter, and Delta District 16. Also a candidate, for a second term on the Grand Lodge as Grand Governor, is one of Delta's own from Houston, Helen Santire. Please give Sister Barbara and Sister Helen your support through your written expressions in the Convention albums and your attendance at the Conventions. Both GVP Barbara and GG Helen will be attending our District Convention in Dallas where you can extend your best wishes.

There are many reasons to look forward to the future with optimism. I am confident that the Daughters of Penelope will continue to prosper and grow through the initiative of our members and the guidance of our Grand Lodge, District Lodge, and Chapter Officers.

It is a privilege and pleasure to serve!  
Christos Aneste!

**From DOP Grand Vice President  
Barbara Stavis Wolf**

Our Growth and Expansion Program this year "Connecting with One Another" has been very successful. My thanks to all of the sisters for searching out potential new members, getting former members to reinstate and planning and carrying out invigorating and exciting programs for our Chapters and Members to reinforce our Mission Statement and make our Organization stronger. In this way we have been Connecting with one Another and others to assure our continued growth.

The Christmas Holidays in 2007 began with a big surprise when my son William was able to graduate five months earlier than expected. So I traveled to Virginia on Dec 14 for his graduation. That sure added excitement to our Holiday Season. Our thanks to the District Scholarship Committee for the wonderful scholarship that William received that helped fund his

education. We returned to New Orleans just in time for the AHEPA Daughters Christmas meeting, and my son William was initiated into the AHEPA. Then it was off to Epiphany and a Grand Lodge Meeting. Other recent travels included attending the Western Regional Conference in Las Vegas; the 2008 Biennial Banquet and Salute to Women in Washington, D.C.; the District #22 Mid Winter Conference in Tacoma, WA; Membership Workshop in St. Louis, MO.; Sisterhood Conference in San Francisco, CA; and Nestor Chapter Tea honoring 50 and 25 year members. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Dallas at the 2008 District #16 Convention. I hope many of you are making plans to attend what promises to be a once in a lifetime Supreme Convention in Athens, Greece, July 1-7, 2008.



Prize awards for our Growth and Expansion Program will be presented at the Supreme Convention in Greece. Awards will be given to the Chapter and District with the most reinstatements, most new members and the District with the largest Maids of Athena membership increase. Also, new member First Endorsers will be entered in a drawing for prizes. The FIRST PRIZE is an Olympic Airlines round trip ticket New York to Athens. Our thanks to Olympic Airlines and all of our sponsors for their generous donation to our Growth and Expansion Program this year. There will be additional prizes awarded of a special museum copy 18K gold handmade Brooch from Dimos Jewellers; 2 night stay at Hilton Torrey Pines in La Jolla, Ca; Sterling Silver Necklas with Peridot Pendant from Konstantino; week-end stay for 2 at the Hyatt Regency Denver; Week-end stay for 2 at the Renaissance Waverly in Atlanta; 2 night stay at Sheraton Wild Horse Pass in Phoenix AZ and \$25 Gift cards.



**DOP District 16 Membership Growth**

The Daughters of District 16 continue to grow, with a 13% increase in membership since December of 2006. Keep up the momentum and continue to make Connections!

December 31, 2006	December 31, 2007	April 27, 2008
378	400	426

**From the DOP Grand Governor Zone III  
Helen Santire**

It has been a great honor for me to have been elected to serve the Daughters of Penelope this year as Grand Governor Zone III. Since becoming a member of the Daughters and a participant in the AHEPA family, I have been touched by the love and courtesies shown to me by Sisters throughout District #16. I especially want to express my deep gratitude to the members of the DOP District Lodge and to the Sisters of Achaia #54, my home chapter. For without their urging and encouragement, my year as Liaison to District 16 would not have been as rewarding.

The year 2007-2008 has been a tremendous year for District 16. It is difficult to find the words that adequately describe District 16's response to the fires in Greece. Every chapter gave generously – clothing, personal articles, and monies.

One of the unique challenges faced yearly by a chapter is membership. This year's membership program, "connecting With One Another", witnessed increased membership in most of the chapters, especially New Orleans and San Antonio. District 16 was among the districts nationally to realize a growth in membership.

It has been several years since the District held a workshop. I want to congratulate DG Maligas on her decision that, in 2008, District 16 would indeed hold a workshop. Over 30 sisters from all over the district attended. The highlight of the conference was the initiation of Kathie Dimataris into the Maids of Athena. Kathie left the workshop determined to establish a Maids chapter. At this very moment, Rhodanthi chapter of the Maids of Athena has been reactivated. I want to express my appreciation to Achaia #54 and Aura #405 for their support and assistance in this achievement.

Aid to Greece, district workshop, successful membership drive, strong scholarship programs, the construction of senior citizen housing, luncheons, bake sales, festivals, publication of a district magazine, re-activation of a Maids chapter, a district convention, and support of our churches – District 16 has met every challenge with determination and creativity. The secret of District 16's success is that it sees itself not as separate chapters but as a united entity (like a family) with love in its heart and commitment in its soul.

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**Pete G. Kaldis PDG Appointed Supreme Governor Region 7**



Pete G. Kaldis, rancher, retired real estate investor and Past District Governor of Delta District 16, has been appointed Supreme Governor of Region #7 by Supreme President Ike Gulas, to fill the position created by the recent resignation of John Georgiandis.

"I humbly accept with great honor and enthusiasm the appointment by Supreme President Ike Gulas and

the Supreme Lodge of the Order of AHEPA, and pledge to serve our Order to the best of my ability", Brother Kaldis stated. "I will stay in constant communication with the District Governors of Region #7, keeping them informed of all AHEPA programs, as well as assisting them in motivating the Chapters in their respective Districts, and in addition, stimulate a growth in membership."

Pete Kaldis is a successful and very effective leader of Alexander the Great Chapter 29 and Delta District 16 and has been instrumental in the profound accomplishments the Chapter and the District have enjoyed over the last seven years. He will be attending the upcoming District Conventions in Region 7. CONGRATULATIONS brother Pete!

**From Our District Scholarship Chairman  
Steve G. Kirkikis, M.D.**

The District 16 Scholarship Program is completing twenty-four consecutive successful years of awarding scholarships to qualified students in District 16. Other scholarship programs have operated in District 16 prior to 1984, but the present program has operated uninterrupted for 24 years.

Since 1984, \$146,600 has been awarded to 213 scholarship recipients. With the untiring support of the members of the Order of AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope in District 16, the Scholarship Fund has grown from \$20,000 in 1984 to almost \$127,000 in 2008.

The 2007-2008 District 16 Scholarship Board is as follows:

- Steve G. Kirkikis, M. D., Chairman, Ahepa elected representative for 3 years 2005-2008
- Ernest Papavasiliou, Ahepa elected representative for 3 years 2007-2010
- Vangie Barrow, Daughters of Penelope elected representative for 3 years 2006-2009
- John N. Sempeles, Order of Ahepa District Governor 2007-2008

- Barbara Maligas, Daughters of Penelope District Governor 2007-2008

The Chairman and the entire District 16 Scholarship Board are truly grateful for the wonderful support all the members have given to the program.

For the 2007-2008 academic year, the Delta District 16 Scholarship Board awarded eight scholarships of \$1,000 each at the 76<sup>th</sup> AHEPA District Convention held in Shreveport, Louisiana on June 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Eleven scholarships are authorized for the 2008-2009 academic year, and all qualified college students of the District are invited to apply for a scholarship. The deadline for submitting an application for the 2008-2009 academic year is May 29, 2008, or three weeks before the 2008 District Convention scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> in Dallas. Applications and instructions may be obtained from the District Governors of AHEPA and Daughters, from the local AHEPA and Daughters chapters, from the Scholarship Board, or downloaded from the District website at [www.Ahepad16.org](http://www.Ahepad16.org)

**38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Congressional Banquet and Salute to Women  
By Pete G. Kaldis**

This enjoyable and interesting weekend at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. was well attended, not only by members and friends of the AHEPA family, but also by various members of Congress.

On Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 40 members of the AHEPA family, as a group and arranged by the Order of AHEPA, visited Capitol Hill and had the rare opportunity of seeing Congress in action. Some attendees visited their own congressmen on the Hill in their congressional offices and were able to meet them for a personal one-on-one visit.

The Biennial Banquet took place on Friday evening, March 7<sup>th</sup>, in the Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel, and was attended by over 450 people. John Catsimatides, billionaire businessman was presented with the AHEPA Aristotle Award, which is given to an outstanding Hellene for distinguished service in his profession. George Bistis, a journalist who has been recognized for excellence as a media professional, was presented with the AHEPA Demosthenes Award.

Approximately 110 Greek Americans in elected offices across the country were invited to receive the 2008 AHEPA public service award. Supreme President, Ike Gulas, was presented the NEO Magazine "Person of the Year" Award.

The Daughters of Penelope 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial Salute to Women reception was held on Saturday morning, March 8<sup>th</sup>. This year's recipient and honoree was Erato Kozakou-Masrcoullis, former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Cyprus, who has spent 28 years serving in various positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Approximately 200 people attended the reception at which Her Excellency focused her speech on the condition of women around the world. In addition, the four leaders of the AHEPA Family made remarks. Past notable honorees of the Salute to Women are former First Lady Betty Ford and Ambassador Shirley Temple Black.

This inspiring and edifying weekend once again made us proud to be a member of the AHEPA Family.

## Mary M. Verges PGP Chosen Woman of the Year

On Sunday, March 30, 2008, Mary M. Verges, President of AHEPA/DOP 54, Inc. Board of Directors was presented with the **WOMAN OF THE YEAR** Award by St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church. The award ceremony took place during the 8:00 AM church services in Humble, Texas. Deidre Taylor, Church Program Administrator, was in charge of the presentation.



Mary M. Verges PGP, accompanied by Marie Harris PDG, receives Woman of the Year Award from Dieder Taylor of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.

Each year in March, the church observes National Women History Month and recognizes one exceptional woman for outstanding public service. This year Mary was chosen not only for her involvement with senior housing, but also for her many years of community service in Houston and surrounding areas during her 47- year employment with Texaco Inc. She received a standing ovation by the 200 parishioners in attendance.

Fellow Board Member, Marie Harris, Treasurer of the AHEPA/DOP 54 Inc. Board of Directors, accompanied Mary and was also recognized during the ceremony. A 50-member church choir composed of all women sang during church services in celebration of Women's Month.

After the church services, a reception honoring Mary was held in the church community hall, where she and Marie had the opportunity to meet and become acquainted with the St. Luke Baptist Church parishioners.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER MARY ON THIS UNPARALLELED AND UNIQUE HONOR.

## Houston, TX - DOP Achaia Chapter 54

By Sharon Papadopoulos

Beautifully designed by renowned architect Mark Musemeche, Penelope's Place will be available for occupancy at year's end. Award-winning interior designer Perry Marvelis has selected the interior finishings. This beautiful building will be the crown jewel not only for the residents who live there, but also for our Chapter as a place of gatherings and happy events. The HUD Committee – Mary M. Verges, Mary Lymberry, Delores Pappas, Marie Harris, Vangie Barrow, Sharon Papadopoulos, and Niki Vaughn – want to thank everyone who contributed and helped in any way to make this dream become a reality. We are deeply grateful!

Our chapter has been very active this spring:

- We donated to the Philoptochos St. Basil's fund in January and had our Superbowl party at the AHEPA HUD.
- District Governor Barbara Maligas made her visitation on February 13<sup>th</sup> and gave insightful thoughts concerning the growth, direction and new vision our organization is taking.

- Our yearly Lenten social is planned for April 10<sup>th</sup> with our members bringing potluck desserts and Lenten dishes.

It was such fun being together on the bus to Shreveport for the District Convention last year that we have planned to repeat getting a bus again for the trip to Dallas this year! All we need are 30 people to achieve this. So keep the dates of June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> for our convention.

Achaia will again award a \$1000.00 scholarship to a deserving young woman in our community. Education and hard work has been the key to Hellenic achievement in this country. Every Greek family values education and English language schools are in even the most obscure little Greek villages.

Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, we baked koulourakia and Greek sweet bread. The koulourakia will be for the May coffees and extra cookies and the bread will be sold to raise money for charity and scholarships.

We in Achaia hope you had a very beautiful Easter, and we wish you a pleasant summer.

## San Antonio – DOP Hecabe Chapter 185

By Andrea Lieberum

The sisters of Hecabe have enjoyed a productive winter and spring, initiating six new members. Pictured are four of our new initiates, from left to right, Pam Layden, Dee Swainhart, Maria LaRochelle, and Amy Smith. In addition, we welcome Doris Dimas, Janet Goodwin, and Terri Kadala.



Sadly, we lost our beloved sister Clara Fotis; may her memory be eternal.

We provided beautiful Thanksgiving baskets to those in need, an effort headed up by Hecabe sisters and real-life sisters, Annette Cash, Vicky Dolan, and Kathy Nelson. In December, Sisters Terri Kadala and Andrea Lieberum served as both co-chairs and Santa's elves for preparation of Christmas baskets for two families. This year, through the generosity of sisters in and out of town, both from our chapter and from others,

Hecabe was able to deliver much more than Christmas dinner. In addition, each family received a fully stocked pantry to start out 2008, and a plethora of gifts for each parent and a total of seven children, including a bicycle for each family. Enough thanks cannot be said for those who helped make a blessed and merry holiday out of what could have been a dismal season for these struggling families.

Our annual Pascha Bake Sale is well underway, thanks to our wonderful president and bake sale chairman, Leona Moore. We will offer koulourakia, spanakopita, tiropita, tsoureki, and dolmades.

Coming up, Sister Sandy Salas will once again take the reins of the annual St. Sophia community picnic in May, an event co-sponsored with AHEPA. Sister Kathy Kaberides will chair our annual rummage sale, benefiting the Mary Vamvoras Scholarship Fund as well as other chapter commitments. And once again, the annual Texas Folklife Festival will find us out in force to support our AHEPA brothers.

The San Antonio chapter is enjoying a warm, wonderful season of sisterhood, working so well and closely together and enjoying so much support and so many good times. It brings to mind this quote from Katherine Mansfield: "Bless you, my darling, and remember you are always in the heart - oh tucked so close there is no chance of escape - of your sister. Wishing you all a terrific summer full of blessings in Theta Pi!

## Maids of Athena Rodanthi Chapter Reactivated in Houston

On Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, the Maids Grand Treasurer, Victoria Pavlopoulos, and the National Advisor, Joanne Saltas, visited Houston and inducted eight new members into the Maids of Athena, reactivating the Houston Rhodanthi chapter.

The following officers were selected: Kathy Dimataris as Worthy Maid, Katrina Viteri as Loyal Maid, Caterina Kaffes as Treasurer, and Irenie Kaffes as Secretary. Additional members are Christina Stamatakis, Eleni Stamatakis, Anna Viteri, Rebecca Sappenfield, and Alexandra Doukakis.

During the Daughters Winter Workshop in Houston, Kathy Dimataris was initiated as a Maid at Large and took on the responsibility of contacting and organizing the prospective MOA members while they were still in attendance at various colleges.

Some of the new Rhodanthi members are anticipating attending the state-side National Convention for the Maids of Athena and Sons of Pericles to be held in New Orleans, while others may be attending the District Convention in Dallas. The two conventions are being held the same weekend of June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**New Orleans – DOP Nestor Chapter 55**

*By Helen Malachias*

Members of Nestor had a busy fall and winter. The annual Pastry Sale was most successful. Chairs Mary Kontos and Sandy Bouzon along with many of the sisters did an outstanding job of preparing our pre-ordered gift boxes.

Our membership continues to grow. We are proud of new initiates Angela Gervais, Maria Wisdom and Kathy Conklin Angelico and also Rania Mantikos and Magda Pelias who reinstated.

Our Hospitality committee Sisters Monica Monteleone, Denise Ammons, and Magda Pelias have graciously kept in touch with our sisters who have not returned to New Orleans since Katrina. Boxes of Greek Pastries were mailed to them for the holidays and Mardi Gras King Cakes delighted them in February. We miss Sisters Argyro Pitsakis, Argyro Stratis, Sandy Doussa and Dea Pappas.

Grand Governor Helen Santire and District Governor Barbara Maligas honored our chapter with their official visitation. We shared a very informative meeting that was followed by a Christmas Holiday Dinner. Members of the Ahepa joined us for a cocktail hour, a delicious dinner and holiday desserts. Many thanks to Sisters Sandy Bouzon, Olga Christakis, Mary Kontos, Cornelia Koniditsiotis, Nisha Sandhu, and Ginny Zissis. Brothers Elias Tsatalios, John Koniditsiotis and Spiro Bouzon prepared the meal and Charlie Malachias provided the wine.

Our chapter supported the Cathedral Christmas card. Our members have supported the Angel Tree Project and Thanksgiving Baskets as well. We also made a donation to re-build the neighborhood Fire Fighters House.

An afternoon tea at the Ritz-Carlton on April 6<sup>th</sup> was held honoring 50-year member Presvytera Alyce Gaines and 25-year members Viki Moustoukas and Niki Levendis.



*Nestor honors 50 Year Member Presvytera Alyce Gaines with Vange Malachias and President Helen Malachias.*



*25 year Member Viki Moustoukas, with Diana Moustoukas, and Despina Moustoukas*

We rejoiced with Fr. Anthony and Presvytera Monica Monteleone on the occasion of his ordination. They are presently serving the Holy Trinity Mission Church in Baton Rouge.

We are very proud of William Wolf who graduated in December from Virginia Tech. Congratulations!

We are beaming with pride and anticipation - our own Sister Barbara Stavis Wolf will be named Grand President of our Order at the Ahepa Convention in Athens. Barbara joins Sister Becky Demeris in having served as Grand President of the Maids of Athena and the Daughters of Penelope. We know all the members of the Daughters of Penelope and the Order of Ahepa join us in proclaiming Barbara "AXIA" ....Worthy!

**Best wishes and love Sister Barbara from your sisters of Nestor 55!**

**Andrew Jackson Chapter  
of the  
Order of AHEPA  
and  
Nestor Chapter  
of the Daughters of Penelope  
of New Orleans  
Proudly express our best wishes  
to  
*Sister Barbara Stavis Wolf*  
and anticipate her election  
to the office of Grand President  
of the Daughters of Penelope  
in Athens, Greece**

**Dallas, TX - Terpsichore Chapter 105**

*By Vali Maglaras*

The 2007-08 year of the Dallas Terpsichore Chapter began with a sweet start on August 19, with our chapter co-hosting a CHAMPAGNE AND CHOCOLATE party with our local Philoptochos Chapter, held at the home of Sister Stacie Thomas. It was a well attended event, with over 75 members from both organizations in attendance. This event was the first of its kind between the two organizations and we look forward to working together again soon!

In November, our chapter hosted our annual Founder's Day Coffee and Bake Sale. With the holidays around the corner, it was time to prepare Thanksgiving baskets for the needy. Our project for the Christmas holidays was the Stonewall Jackson Christmas Stockings project. At our December meeting, we provided and filled 50 stockings with gifts, treats, and books for students at Stonewall Jackson Elementary School. The most rewarding thing about the project was attending the party and handing out the gifts to the students!

Our December meeting also served as our Christmas party with our brother AHEPANS. The AHEPANS took charge of the kitchen and we had a relaxing time in the middle of the holiday rush.

The New Year started off with a Founder's Day and Past President's Luncheon on January 26. All the attendees enjoyed reminiscing through scrapbooks and photo albums of our chapter, remembering those who came before us, and honoring the Spirit of Penelope.

Congratulations to Sister Hrisanthe Patts on a job well done!

January also began our president's challenge to pay our dues on time! The earlier you pay your dues, the more chances you have to win a prize at the April meeting.

In February, we sponsored the Save-a-Heart Bake Sale and Coffee at Holy Trinity, with every member wearing red to support heart health awareness. March brings the preparation of our annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale, where all proceeds will benefit our local Daughters of Penelope Scholarship Fund. In addition, we are starting a project called the Tremont Project; our purpose is to visit Daughters who are in care facilities or nursing homes and unable to participate in DOP activities.

**Don't forget to mark June 19-22 on your calendars for the District Convention in Dallas! We have prepared a fun weekend for delegates and family members.**

As another year comes to a close, everyone who helped our chapter has made it greater.

The officers who have planned and carried out the duties of the 2007-08 year are: Anne-Marie Cariotis, President; Chris Hochleutner, Vice-President; Stacie Thomas, Corresponding Secretary; Vera Gajewsky, Recording Secretary; and Betty Boyd, Treasurer.



*Terpsichore Sisters at the Save-A-Heart Coffee and Bake Sale in February.*

**West Houston – DOP Aura Chapter 405**  
*By Katie-Pat Bowman*

West Houston's Aura Chapter No. 405 has been busy this past fiscal year. After sending two boxes of supplies to the victims of the fires in Greece, our ladies raised \$450 at a Garage Sale and donated all the proceeds to the planting of olive trees in those devastated areas.

In December, Sisters Anna Simotas, Johanna Pappas, Penny Vletas and Katie-Pat Bowman brought a bookcase, books and Christmas goodies to the women and children of Villa Guadalupe. Sponsored by Catholic Charities, Villa Guadalupe offers temporary housing to mothers and their small children who are victims of abuse or otherwise find themselves without a home. Resident women have an opportunity to learn skills and establish themselves in the workforce.



Library donated by Aura Chapter to Villa Guadalupe.  
 L to R: Anna Simotas, PDG Penny Vletas, Johanna Pappas, and Katie-Pat Bowman.

Also in December, Aura and the James Petheriotis Chapter of AHEPA donated \$10,000 to the Church Fund of St. Basil the Great Greek Orthodox Church. God willing, the new Church and Chapel are expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

In March, the ladies of Aura assisted the AHEPA in the preparation and serving of a spaghetti dinner after Divine Liturgy, which raised \$700 for the purchase of altar boy robes and other altar necessities.

Plans are underway for Aura's annual Greek Cooking Class, which we hold in June each year. While open to parishioners of St. Basil the Great, we particularly enjoy hosting non-Greek participants who live in the neighborhood or surrounding areas. It's a wonderful way for us to share our Greek heritage with others, and those of us who have been participating,

either as instructors or servers, over the past seven years, readily admit that it's as much fun for us as it is for the attendees, many of whom come back year after year. Thanks to all our dedicated ladies and to Treasurer Teme Sappenfield who will be hosting our last meeting of the year at her lovely home (another Aura tradition!) <<<<< >>>>>

**West Houston – AHEPA Petheriotis Chapter 522**  
*By Nick Kaffes*

The West Houston Chapter, #522, named for "Mr. AHEPA" James Petheriotis, Past Supreme Treasurer, is supporting the construction of the permanent sanctuary of St. Basil. Last December Chapter President George Vletas presented a check of \$5,000 to the Church towards this goal. The money will be used for the Episcopal Throne in the new church building. At the same time, the local DOP Aura Chapter President Katie-Pat Bowman presented another check of \$5,000 to the Church; this money will be used for the large candleholders in the church's solea.



West Houston AHEPA and DOP Chapter Presidents George Vletas and Katie-Pat Bowman receive thanks from St. Basil Church Council President for their \$10,000 donation to the building fund.

In February 2008 the AHEPA and DOP Chapters organized a Sunday luncheon at St. Basil's to raise funds for the purchase of new altar boy robes. The luncheon was chaired by Paul Michael and was very successful, raising a net of \$700 towards these new robes that have been purchased in Greece. Additional fundraising is in progress to purchase additional altar items in memory of the late Brother Greg Demataris, who was the AHEPA Chapter's Chaplain.

**San Antonio – AHEPA Chapter 311**  
*By Costa Sgagias*

Once again in October, the Ahepans were the first to help with money donations and just plain hard work to help make the 47th Annual Greek Funstival another huge success.



(L-r; working the food line - - Deno Georgacakis, Peter Kaberides, Joe Fugate, Dean Danos & Bill Layden)

We also sponsored a "Sponsor A Soldier" from the Fisher House to our FUNstival. Because of the outburst of generosity by so many folks from our community - - we collected enough to invite 77 soldiers. Each invite contained: entrance tickets, \$25.00 worth of food coupons and the name of the sponsor. Speaking of the Fisher House, each year they pay tribute with appropriate ceremonies to its founder, the late Zachery Fisher on his birth date, September 26. This year, thanks to Bill and Pam Layden, our youth dance group participated and put on a great performance.



(L-r; Chris Suci, Lauren Mayo, Anthony Fafoutakis, Kallie McQueen, Nick Brannock)

As we have done in the past, in November, our chapter provided a free Thanksgiving Luncheon for our Church community. At the luncheon, we also recognized Veterans Day with a salute to all veterans and especially those in our community. The Ladies Philoptochos Society also joined us with their annual Arts & Crafts fundraiser. In addition we were particularly honored and blessed to have His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah with us.



(L-r; Bill Layden, John Fotopoulos, Victor Gerleman, Ralph LaRoche, Deno Georgacakis, Costa Sgagias, Paul Fafoutakis and Geoff Crabtree)

During the Holidays we planned a dinner dance to celebrate our Chapter's 70th Anniversary. The theme was honoring the twenty-two members that established our chapter on February 15, 1938. To make our event even more memorable, the Ladies Philoptochos Society joined us in conducting a silent auction as a fundraiser. It was also an honor to have Supreme Treasurer Anthony Kouzounis, District Governor John Sempeles, and PDG Peter Kaldis join in celebrating our chapter's Anniversary. Their attendance really made it a very unforgettable event.

Last year the Ahepans also started a project to renovate the display of the founding families of St Sophia Greek Orthodox Church located in our Founders Hall. Like most projects we ran into challenges; design changes, color changes, etc. Well, we are pleased to say the project is finished and it looks great. Thanks to the Ahepans George Mayo, Jim Vamvakias, Costa Sgagias, Dan Titerle, and Steve Hudkins.

Our annual Greek Independence Day Luncheon on Sunday, March 23rd was another success. This year not only was our hall covered with Greek flags but we got the Sunday school kids involved. They did a great job singing and reciting Greek poems dedicated to our Independence Day. All the proceeds from this luncheon support the Dan Anthony Memorial Scholarship Fund.



(Greek Independence Day with Sunday School participation)

Speaking of the Dan Anthony Memorial Scholarship Fund, our annual luncheon that supports this fund will be on Sunday, May 18th, 2008. Our plan this year includes celebrating AHEPA Day along with the Sunday School Teachers Appreciation Program - - should be a busy and fun day.

Then in June, we will be waving the Greek Flag high as we participate in the 37th Texas Folklife Festival - - keep your fingers crossed that we take first place for our Gyro for the third year in the row.

Last, but not least we welcomed five new members to the AHEPA family; Deno Georgacakis, Michael Dolan, John Watkins, Nick Brannock and Mike Eldred. One of the many good things about Michael and Nick joining AHEPA - - they lowered our average age by 10 years!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our 77th District 16 Convention in Dallas/Fort Worth.

**Austin – AHEPA Chapter 312***By John Kalogirou*

Earlier this year the AHEPA Austin chapter supported the local community through annual donations to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF), Safeplace Austin Children Center, and the Greek School.

In celebration of March 25<sup>th</sup>, the AHEPA Austin chapter sponsored lunch for over 100 participants at the Transfiguration Church gathering on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. John Kalogirou recognized the winner of the Austin chapter's annual educational scholarship,

Georgia Spiropoulos, and presented the recipient a check in the amount of \$500 for outstanding scholastic achievement.

Due to the unavailability of the venue utilized for the Texas Greek Festival in 2007, the next Texas Greek Festival is being scheduled for 2009. A Greek night and participation in other festivals are being evaluated for 2008.

**Ft. Worth – AHEPA Chapter 19***By Nick Payblas*

Our chapter recently held our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine's Dance fund raiser. Over \$1,800.00 was raised to benefit the two scholarships we will award for 2008.



*Nick Payblas and Chris Xydias tend bar for the Valentine's Dance*

We also sponsored a Lenten canned food drive. All donations are being given to a local food bank.

Currently discussions are ongoing with our Brothers from the Dallas chapter and our Sisters from the Dallas Daughters of Penelope to jointly host the 2008 District Convention in the DFW area. Arrangements have been made with the Crown Plaza for rooms, meeting rooms and festivities. The hotel is close to the Dallas church.

Our chapter is also happy to welcome our new members Phillip Heiger, Kosta Kalfuntzos, Randy Keklen, and Ray McCoy.

**New Orleans – AHEPA Andrew Jackson Chapter 133***By Nick Moustoukas, M.D.*

The New Orleans AHEPA family is busy with plans for our new HUD apartment complex. We were awarded a 42 unit building and are currently working with the city for our planning and construction permits. The closing date has not been set but we anticipate this to occur in late fall followed by groundbreaking. This is a joint project with the Daughters of Penelope Chapter 55. We have been working on this for approximately 5 years and were finally successful. Incidentally, we are also applying to HUD for the Phase 2 addition while this program is still available to us.

Other events in the works are a "Mini-Festival" that will be sponsored by our chapters to raise money to offset the HUD-related expenses. We plan on having this in October or November pending scheduling availability. We are also interested in cosponsoring the annual District 16 convention in the summer of 2009.

Although "Katrina" occurred 30 months ago, parts of the city have not come back to full swing. The church neighborhood is mixed with rebuilds, teardowns and abandoned homes. This will still take time to fully recover. The main businesses are operating but not at full capacity, many have closed or relocated. The medical care has been consolidated to several large centers, but all services are available. New Orleans' crime statistics are always making the news but it is not as bad as reported. Most neighborhoods are safe and well patrolled and the tourist areas are also without major problems. If people use common sense and are not involved in drug trafficking they should be safe. The levees which hold the water back are being built, rebuilt, replaced, reinforced, armored, sheet-piled, t-walled, i-walled, looked at, heightened, reseeded, inspected, examined, tested, bored etc. etc. The big question we all have is, "Why wasn't this done before?"

**Houston – AHEPA Alexander the Great Chapter 29***By Tom Pearson*

October is the month of great activity for that is when the Greek Festival is held and many Ahepans and Daughters participate by working Thursday through Sunday, putting in long hours of service to the community event. Every year seems to exceed the previous one.

On October 12, many members of the chapter as a group attended the basketball game between the Houston Rockets and a leading professional team from Greece: "Punathanikos".

November is about Thanksgiving, and the chapter sponsored a luncheon for the Senior Citizens.

What a great time everyone had at the Annual Christmas Dinner Dance sponsored by the chapter's Educational Foundation to raise money for scholarships. The event was held at the Junior League and attended by over 250 persons. Brother Emile Pappas was given an award for his past service to the foundation. The Greek Counsel, Alexandra Theodoropoulou, was present and gave an inspiring speech on Hellenism. A silent auction was also held for the scholarship benefit.

We started off the New Year with a spaghetti dinner for the members in January served up by Brother George Christie.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Super Bowl Sunday, about 45 Ahepans, including members from Houston Westside Chapter 522 and Daughters of Chapter 54 gathered at the community room of Hellenic Manor Phase IV, our chapter's HUD Apartments, to watch the exciting Super Bowl game. During half time we enjoyed a lasagna dinner including salad, rolls, drinks, dessert and ice cream. Thanks to everyone who helped.

The Ahepa 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Banquet in Washington was attended by members George Polydoros, Sr., PDG Pete Kaldis and Supreme Treasurer Anthony Kouzounis.

Our chapter is heavily involved in the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest. A dynamic group from our community made up of Ahepans and other community organizations are striving to build a Hellenic Cultural Center. Events that they have sponsored recently are:

~ In cooperation with the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the I-Max Theater – "Greece: Secrets of the Past" – a special screening followed by a lecture (Dec. 2, 2006)

~ "An Evening with Eliz Kazan" – a lecture and film presented by Dr. Louis Markos and followed by a Greek wine and food reception. (March 3, 2007)

~ "The Hidden Children of Occupied Greece" – a pictorial exhibit from the Jewish Museum of Greece. It was on exhibit at the Jewish Community Center from Jan. 7 2008 to Feb. 7, 2008. Official opening was a luncheon at the Houston Club with the keynote address by Gov. Michael Dukakis. More than 350 people were in attendance. A lecture series was presented at the JCC and included Dr. James Skedros from our Holy Cross Seminary, Dr. Louis Markos, and Dr. Renee Melammed from Schecter Institute in Jerusalem.

~ The next event was "A Symposium on the Life and Work of Nikos Kazantzakis" in cooperation with Rice University, the Cretans of Houston, the Hellenic Professional Society of Texas and the Consulate of Greece in Houston. (April 5, 2008)

Hellenism is alive and growing in Houston.

**Clear Lake – AHEPA Chapter #518***By Terry Cuclis*

Chapter #518, *The Hellenic Spirit of Clear Lake*, held its annual Glendi on February the 15th, 2008 to raise funds for its Scholarship Fund. Over one hundred and twenty people attended the event including very distinguish guests: **John Sempeles**, District 16 Governor, **Barbara Maligas**, District 16 Governor of Daughters of Penelope, **Chris Ramas**, District 16 Warden and **Pete Kaldis**, past District 16 Governor.

This year our Chapter provided financial support to our Parish GOYA and to the Parish youth dancing group, ASTERIA..

For the Greek Independence Day on March 25th a historical presentation was made on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, by our Chapter's Secretary, George Georgiou and we hosted our Parish "Coffee Hour" after liturgy. Our Chapter is also providing financial support for our church, St. John the Theologian, Easter Sunday AGAPE luncheon.

The annual Greek Festival to raise funds for St. John the Theologian will be held on Mother's Day weekend, Friday through Sunday, May 9, 10 and 11 at the Clear Lake Park and all our Chapter's brothers will provide labor and financial support.

### Shreveport – AHEPA Family

By Georgia Booras

*Christos Anesti* from the Shreveport Ahepa Family to our Delta District family!

Our activities have kept us busy this year. In October, the Daughters took part in a fund-raising event at the Multicultural Center of the South in downtown Shreveport and served some Greek food items. We have a large and wonderful exhibit of our Greek heritage and Orthodox fait at the Center thanks to the efforts of Katina Booras, Demmye Booras, and Mary Blanchard. Thanks also to Katina for her continued work on serving on the Center's Board of Directors.

The Daughters also hosted an Oxi Day Dinner for our church community on October 21. Thanks to Chris and Andrew Panos for preparing the delicious chicken dinner that is an annual favorite!

The 2008 college recipients of the SADEG (Shreveport Ahepa-Daughters Educational Grant) are Christopher Booras, Alexa Calligas, Nicholas Casten, Rachael Edmiston and Mark Kirkikis. Congratulations to all!

Ahepa #8 proudly donated along with the St. George Church a new pectoral cross to Father Brendan Pelphrey. His Eminence Isaiah bestowed the position of Economos on Fr. Brendan during his visit in August. AXIOS!

In November, the Daughters celebrated Founders' Day with an Artoclasia and refreshments at the coffee after church. Magda Panos prepared the beautiful loaves of bread and the board members prepared the refreshments. Magda Panos, Sophia Booras and Maria Kirkikis – the visiting committee – prepared Thanksgiving baskets and visited our homebound community members.

December is a busy month every way you look at it! The Daughters provided refreshments for the Sunday School's Christmas Pageant, a wonderful event showcasing our talented children. Our Ahepa family had a fun and merry evening at the Petroleum Club for our Christmas Party. A night of good food, good friends and dancing! A perfect way to end 2007.

The new year kicks off with Ajax's annual fundraiser, the Super Bowl Pool. Thanks to the efforts of Lisa Skamangas our chapter makes some money and has fun doing it. In February our visiting committee took Valentine baskets to our less mobile members and enjoyed visiting with the ladies.

In March Daughters and Ahepans gathered to honor past president Maria Kirkikis. Maria was feted for her third 2-year term and now holds the record for being

the only Ajax president to serve a total of 6 years as president. It was a wonderful evening and well deserved for one of our hardest working members. Bravo Maria!

After many rescheduled dates, we also had a visit from our District Governor Barbara Maligas in March. We had a wonderful meeting and dinner with Barbara and commend her for a job well done this year.

The Daughters hosted the Lenten dinner following the first Friday's Salutations service. We also hosted the pancake breakfast for the community following Liturgy on the Saturday of Lazarus. On Palm Sunday the Daughters pass out Bunny Bags, candy-filled bags purchased for children and laboriously hand-decorated, and hold a cake walk. Palm Sunday is a busy day at St. George and for the Ajax Daughters! The Ahepa also holds their fundraiser cash raffle that day.

For the Pascha picnic, the Daughters will have a bounce house for the kids as well as the egg hunt with silver egg cash prizes provided by Ahepa.

May ends our year with elections and plans for the conventions. And then ... we will rest!

Well wishes to Harry Stravolemos who is recuperating from surgery.

Our entire community mourns the loss of Pete Skamangas Jr. We offer our deepest sympathies and prayers to Alison, Maria, and Lisa Skamangas, and Annie and Matthew Solice. Our sympathies also to the family of Ajax member Faye Patton. May their memories be eternal.

### Dallas – AHEPA Chapter 20

By John Boyd

The Dallas Chapter has been very busy planning the 77<sup>th</sup> Delta 16 Convention June 19<sup>th</sup> thru 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Dallas Daughters area handling Greek Night and the Banquet and there should be a great time to be had by all. We are having a fair response on the convention ad book and have extended the deadline to May 15<sup>th</sup>, so get those ads coming in. The convention registration forms will be mailed out the week after Easter. Be sure to make your reservations for the hotel (Crown Plaza Suites Hotel, 7800 Alpha Road, Dallas, TX phone 972-233-7600).

The Dallas Chapter is also planning the Agape Picnic for Easter with the funds to go toward the AHEPA Scholarship Fund and Holy Trinity Scholarship Fund, so if you are in Dallas for Easter, plan to attend. The Dallas chapter has made a pledge for \$2000 toward a scholarship to the Holy Trinity Academy for deserving children.



*DOP Winter Workshop on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> attended by 34 Daughters and included guests from the Grand Lodge: Grand Governor Helen Santire, Grand Advisor to MOA Joanne Saltas, and Grand Treasurer of MOA Victoria Pavalopoulos.*



*Vita Mayo and Leona Moore of Hecabe With Penney Vletas at the Winter Workshop.*



*Penelope's Place, the Achaia Chapter's HUD complex, beginning to take Shape!*



*Grand Advisor to MOA Joanne Saltas And Grand Governor Helen Santire With Olga Bush of Hecabe*



*HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!! Sisters from Nester Chapter celebrate the 71<sup>st</sup> birthday of the Chapter's founding on February 26th, 1937.*



AHEPA Supreme Treasurer Anthony Kouzounis presents a certificate of merit To Pres. Costa Sgagias in honor of Chapter 311 in San Antonio.



DOP Grand Lodge at 2008 Salute to Women: l to r - Grand Treasurer Christine Constantine, Canadian President Eleni Inglis, Grand Vice-President Barbara Stavis Wolf, Honoree Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Grand President Karen Stamatiades, and Grand Secretary Elaine Sampanis



Dena Kosmitis, Mary Georgiandis, Evelyn Stravolemos, Maria Kirkikis, Katina Booras and Ethelyn LaHaye attending An Ajax Chapter meeting.

70th Anniversary Dinner Dance for San Antonio Chapter 311 guests included Kay and Costa Sgagias (DOP Dist Treas and AHEPA Dist Lt. Gov.) and AHEPA Dist Gov. John Sempeles

Ahepans Chris and Andy Panos Prepare Oxi Day dinner in Shreveport.



DOP Lodge and Dist. Gov. Visit Hecabe Chapter: l to r -Dist. Adv. Penny Vletas, Chpt. Corr.Secy. Olga Bush, Dist Gov.Barbara Maligas, Chpt. Pres. Leona Moore, Dist.Treas. Kay Sgagias, Dist. LtGov. Sandy Salas and Chpt.Rec.Secy. Andrea Lieberum.



# 77<sup>th</sup> Annual District 16 Convention

## Registration Form:

Full Registration for Ahepans and Daughters	_____	x \$110.00 = \$	_____
(Full Registration after June 1, 2008)	_____	x \$130.00 = \$	_____
Full Registration for Students	_____	x \$100.00 = \$	_____
Greek Night - Friday (Adults)	_____	x \$ 35.00 = \$	_____
Greek Night - Friday (Students)	_____	x \$ 25.00 = \$	_____
Grand Banquet & Ball – Saturday	_____	x \$ 75.00 = \$	_____
Grand Ball Only – Saturday	_____	x \$ 30.00 = \$	_____
		Subtotal = \$	_____
Horse Races at Lone Star Park – Saturday Afternoon (optional)	_____	x \$ 35.00 = \$	_____
		Total = \$	_____

(Full Registration includes Greek Night and Grand Banquet & Ball)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and Number)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed registration form and payment to:

George N. Zarafonetis  
 6341 East University Blvd.  
 Dallas, TX 75214-2141

For additional Convention information contact:

Nick Dixie 214-824-5414 [nixcdix@aol.com](mailto:nixcdix@aol.com)  
 George Zarafonetis 214-363-5050  
 John Boyd [johnboyd@us.ibm.com](mailto:johnboyd@us.ibm.com)



# 77<sup>th</sup> Annual District 16 Convention

## Convention Location:

Crowne Plaza Suites Hotel  
7800 Alpha Road  
Dallas, TX 75240  
Phone: 972-233-7600  
Fax: 972-701-8616  
E-mail: [www.cpdallas.com](http://www.cpdallas.com)  
Room Rate: \$109.00 (plus taxes)

*(Note: Deadline for room reservations is May 20, 2008)*

## Schedule:

### *Thurs., June 19<sup>th</sup>*

7:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. Registration  
8:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. Welcome Night

### *Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>*

9:00a.m. – 5:00p.m. Registration  
9:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. Scholarship Board Meeting  
1:00p.m. – 1:30p.m. Opening – AHEPA-DOP Joint Session  
2:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. AHEPA Business Session  
DOP Business Session  
6:30p.m. – 7:00p.m. Cocktails (cash bar)  
6:30p.m. – 10:30p.m. Silent Auction (DOP District Lodge)  
8:00p.m. – Midnight Dancing by “The Grecian Fire Band”

### *Sat., June 21<sup>st</sup>*

7:30a.m. – 8:30a.m. AHEPA PDG Breakfast  
DOP PDG Breakfast  
8:00a.m. – 10:00a.m. Registration  
9:00a.m. – Noon AHEPA Business Session  
DOP Business Session  
Noon – 1:00p.m. Open for Lunch  
12:40 – 5:45p.m. Horse Races at Lone Star Park, Grand Prairie, TX (*by reservation*)  
1:00p.m. – 2:30p.m. AHEPA Business Session  
DOP Business Session  
2:30p.m. – 3:00p.m. Closing - AHEPA-DOP Joint Session  
3:00p.m. – 4:30p.m. Workshops  
6:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. Cocktails (cash bar) – District Scholarship Raffle Drawing  
7:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. Grand Banquet  
9:00p.m. – Midnight Dancing by “The Grecian Fire Band”

### *Sun., June 22<sup>nd</sup>*

9:00a.m. Liturgy at The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
13555 Hillcrest Road, Dallas, TX 75240  
Noon Fellowship Coffee

*With Best Wishes  
To*

Grand Vice President Barbara Stavis Wolf  
Supreme Treasurer Anthony Kouzounis

Grand Governor Helen Santire  
Supreme Governor Pete Kaldis  
*In the Upcoming Elections*

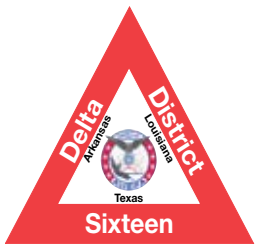
*at*

*Supreme Convention*

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